PDS commodities to Kerala

2272. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar and kerosene given to Kerala per month/ year for distribution through the Public Distribution System during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether Government intend to give up distribution of sugar and kerosene through PDS and to leave them for open market sales; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that the fishermen using boats without board engines are forced to buy kerosene at black market prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The monthly levy sugar quota in respect of Kerala was as under:

	(Quantity in MTs)
1.1.1998 to 29.2.2000	12368
1.3.2000 to 1.6.2000	13592
1.7.2000 to 31.1.2001	12858
1.2.2001 to 31.3.2002	4103

In addition to above 3600 MTs of sugar is allocated to Kerala as annual festival quota.

The quantum of kerosene given to Kerala per month for distribution through the Public Distribution System during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is given below:

Year	Allocation per month (MTs)
1998-1999	2501
1999-2000	25173
2000-2001	25816
2001-2002	22458

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government allocates SKO to the States/UTs on annual basis for distribution to the beneficiaries under Public Distribution System on monthly basis. Any separate allocation of SKO for the fisheries sector within the State is to be adjusted by the State Government within its overall SKO allocation.

Recommendations by Shri Sharad Joshi regarding FCI

†2273. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have received the report of working group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Joshi;

(b) if so, when Government received this report;

(c) what recommendations have been made with regard to Food Corporation of India in the said report; and

(d) what action Government have taken for the implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The report was received in the year 2001.

(c) In the report, there were no specific recommendations relating to Food Corporation of India. However, in respect of warehouses, it was recommended that the present system of purchase of cereals and farm produce should be changed. In its place a system of warehouse receipts for storing farm produce in warehouses and extending credit to farmers to the extent of 70% of value of material kept in godowns needs to be introduced. The report further states that this can be done by recognizing warehouse receipts as negotiable instruments under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

(d) The concept of pledged financing has been encouraged and articulated in the National Agriculture Policy.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi..